

O 021704Z OCT 08
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO MARINE SECURITY GUARD PROGRAM COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY
USOFFICE FRC FT LAUDERDALE PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 105458

FOR POST MANAGEMENT,
RSO AND DETCMDR
FRANKFURT ALSO FOR CO MCESG REGION 1
CO MCESG REGION 5
CO MCESG REGION 7
AND CO MCESG REGION 8
ABU DHABI ALSO FOR CO MCESG REGION 2
BANGKOK ALSO FOR CO MCESG REGION 3
FRC FT LAUDERDALE FOR CO MCESG REGION 4 AND CO MCESG REGION 9
PRETORIA ALSO FOR CO MCESG REGION 6

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT ASEC KMSG

SUBJECT: Secretary Rice's Message on the 233rd Anniversary of
The United States Marine Corps

¶1. Please post appropriately the following message from
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

¶2. Begin text:

On behalf of the Department of State, I extend my best
wishes and sincere congratulations to the United States Marine
Corps on your 233rd anniversary on November 10.

Since the United States Marine Corps' founding in 1775 at
the Second Continental Congress, Marines have served with
distinction in every American armed conflict and have provided
vital humanitarian assistance to millions of needy people
around the world.

With the authorization of the Marine Security Guard
program in 1946, Marines have protected U.S. diplomatic
personnel, facilities, and critical information with honor.
Over the past year, Marine Security Guards have provided
exemplary support and exhibited unwavering commitment to
numerous embassies and consulates in crisis situations. In
but one example, during violent and unpredictable
demonstrations in Belgrade, Serbia, Marine Security Guards
valiantly stood their ground to protect embassy personnel and
facilities while under direct threat from thousands of
protesters.

This year the Marine Corps and Department of State
commemorated the 10th and 25th anniversaries of terrorist
attacks on U.S. diplomatic facilities in East Africa and
Beirut, Lebanon. Despite these tragic attacks, Marines
continue bravely to stand watch over the men and women of
American diplomacy while also sharing in our losses. Today
over 1,400 Marines serve alongside our diplomats at 149
embassies and consulates around the world with absolute,
unwavering commitment to our security. Without the Marines,
the men and women of the State Department could not succeed in
their mission.

America proudly recognizes the unique contributions,
bravery, and sacrifices of all Marines, and I thank you for
your continued dedication and service to our country in the
cause of freedom.

Semper Fidelis, Marines!
Condoleezza Rice

End text.

RICE